AMENDED CLAIMS

[(received by the International Bureau on 24 June 2004 (24.06.04);
original claim 1 replaced by new claim 1; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

1. A method for treating waste material containing manure from animal feedlots, the method including the steps of mixing the material with a layered double hydroxide material, optionally a clay material and optionally water to form a mixture, said layered double hydroxide material being added in an amount sufficient to sequester anions present in the waste sludge or slurry, said layered double hydroxide material and optionally clay material and optionally water being added in an amount sufficient to form a workable mixture for granulating, and subjecting the mixture to a granulating process and a drying process to form dried granules.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of layered double hydroxide material added to the waste material is determined by adding trial amounts of layered double hydroxide material to a sample of the waste material, analysing a liquid component from the waste material for anion content, selecting a liquid component having a desired or pre-determined anion content and selecting the amount of layered double hydroxide material added to the waste sample from which the selected liquid component was obtained as the determined amount of layered double hydroxide material.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the amount of layered double hydroxide material added to the waste material is in excess of the determined amount.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of layered double hydroxide material to be added to the waste material is determined by determining the amount of soluble anions in the waste material and adding at least sufficient LDH material to sequester the determined amount of soluble anions.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the waste material is a waste sludge or slurry and the amount of layered double hydroxide material added to the waste sludge or slurry is determined by determining the amount of dissolved anions and leachable anions in the waste sludge or slurry and adding at least sufficient layered double hydroxide